

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to)	
Receive Universal Service Support)	WC Docket No. 09-197
)	
Time Warner Cable, Inc.)	
Petition for Forbearance)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF MAINE**

The Telecommunications Association of Maine (TAM)¹ offers the following comments in response to the comments filed by the New York State Telecommunications Association (NYSTA) on December 31, 2012, in the above captioned proceeding.

The comments of NYSTA raised an important point which needs to be highlighted, namely the question of whether the various and sundry unnamed subsidiaries of Time Warner Cable (TWC) are telecommunications carriers.² TAM did not address this point in initial comments because it was our understanding that, by making the initial request for Forbearance, TWC was acknowledging what has been obvious for quite some time, namely that the voice service TWC provides through its subsidiaries is in fact a telecommunications service. As such, all of TWC's subsidiaries implicated by their forbearance request are telecommunications carriers and therefore subject to all relevant regulations. In light of NYSTA's comments, it would certainly be appropriate at this juncture for the Commission to expressly address and resolve this issue.

There appear to be two, and only two, possibilities. Either all of TWC's subsidiaries implicated in TWC's filing are telecommunications carriers subject to all relevant State and Federal regulations; or they are not telecommunications carriers and therefore ineligible to request forbearance. Whichever way the Commission decides this core preliminary issue, it is critical that the decision be made clearly and definitively

¹ TAM's members are FairPoint Communications of Northern New England, Northland Telephone Company, China Telephone Company, Maine Telephone Company, Standish Telephone Company, Sidney Telephone Company, Cobbooseecontee Telephone Company, Community Service Telephone Company, Hampden Telephone Company, Hartland & St. Albans Telephone Company, Somerset Telephone Company, The Islands Telephone Company, Warren Telephone Company, Oxford Telephone Company, Oxford West Telephone Company, Unitel Inc., Mid-Maine Telecom, Saco River Telegraph & Telephone Company, The Pine Tree Telephone & Telegraph Company, Lincolnville Networks and Tidewater Telecom.

² TAM agrees with NYSTA that the vague and open-ended nature of TWC's request on behalf of unnamed subsidiaries who may or may not be limited to operations within New York State falls far short of the standards for who may bring a request for forbearance under 47 U.S.C § 160(c).

within the body of the Commission's Order. There is an excellent opportunity here to resolve a lingering ambiguity regarding the overarching regulatory status of TWC and its various subsidiaries. The Commission should embrace this opportunity for clarity and issue a ruling that will avoid any future confusion on this point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Sanborn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin M. Sanborn, Esq.
Telecommunications Association of Maine

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